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Public consultation on the EU's labour migration policies and the EU Blue Card

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

1
Your Contact Details

*1.1 Name

K.H.D.M. Dijkhoff, State Secretary of Security and Justice, on behalf of the Dutch Cabinet.

1.2 Organisation's Name

Ministry of Security and Justice

1.3 Address

Postbus 20301, 2500 EH, Den Haag

*1.4 Email

info@minvenj.nl

1.5 Country of current residence or where your organisation is based:

Netherlands

2
Your Profile

*2.1 In what capacity are you completing the questionnaire?

- ○ Employer
- ○ Employer's organisation
- ○ Trade Union
- ○ Executive and Senior-Level Management (Oversees Mid-Level Management and multiple departments; May manage multiple facilities; May manage national or global operations; Manages budgets)
- ○ Non-EU migrant workers and entrepreneurs already residing -or having previously resided- legally in the European Union
- ○ Non-EU migrant workers and entrepreneurs currently outside the European Union but considering or having considered to migrate to the EU
- ○ Public Employment Service
- ○ Private Employment Service
- ● National Ministry
- ○ Non-Governmental Organisations (support network, assistance, services)
- ○ Regional Authority
- ○ Local Authority
- ○ National Consulate/Embassy
- ○ National Statistical Office
- ○ Private Individuals
- ○ Academia
- ○ Non-Governmental Organisations (advocacy)
- ○ Media
- ○ International organisations
- ○ Organisations or authorities of the countries of origin
- ○ Others

3
LABOUR MARKETS

3.7 In order to address labour shortages, a number of policy measures can be taken such as recruiting from other EU Member States, increasing the retirement age and labour market participation rates, or active labour market policies.

Besides such measures, do you consider that it is also necessary to recruit migrant workers, including entrepreneurs, from outside the EU to address labour shortages in particular sectors/occupations in the EU?

- ○ Yes
- ● No

3.8 The EU and the Member States have in place tools to identify labour and skills shortages. Do you think that further initiatives at EU level, in particular with regard to highly skilled jobs, are necessary to improve the effectiveness of these tools?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

3.10 If no, why?

200 character(s) maximum

NL wants to attract highly skilled, students and entrepreneurs because they contribute to the economy but potential shortages on the Dutch labour market should be solved by demand and supply factors.

4
AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

4.21 Do you inform employers and/or potential non-EU workers about recruitment possibilities for foreign workers?

- ○ Yes, employers
- ○ Yes, non-EU workers
- ◉ Yes, both
- ○ No

4.22 If yes, how do you inform employers and non-EU workers about these recruitment possibilities?

- ◉ Public employment agencies
- ○ Private intermediation agencies
- ○ On the basis of international agreements between your Member State and non-EU countries
- ○ Other (please specify)

4.24 Do you put employers and employees in touch (job-matching)?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

4.26 Are NGOs, Unions or charities also involved in intermediation services?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

4.27 Do you take actions to promote the immigration schemes for highly qualified labour migrants, such as the EU Blue Card or similar schemes?

- [ ] Yes, we promote the EU Blue Card
- [x] Yes, we promote another (national) scheme
- [ ] No

4.28 Please Specify

300 character(s) maximum

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The target groups in NL are students, highly skilled migrants, investors
and entrepreneurs. For each of these groups specific attractive schemes
are in place, which can be found on the IND website https://ind.nl/en,
www.newtoholland.nl (work and study) and www.startupdelta.org
(entrepreneurs).
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5
ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE EU

5.1 How would you rate the attractiveness of the EU for labour migrants on the following factors?

	--	-	0	+	++
Level of wages	○	○	○	○	◉
Job opportunities	○	○	○	◉	○
Ease of getting a work permit	○	○	◉	○	○
Conditions for family reunification	○	○	○	○	◉
Welfare and healthcare system	○	○	○	○	◉
Opportunities for family members (professional, schooling, leisure and other)	○	○	○	◉	○
Rule of law	○	○	○	○	◉
The environment	○	○	○	○	◉
Portability of social benefits (e.g. acquired pension rights, sickness insurance…)	○	○	○	◉	○
Personal safety	○	○	○	◉	○
Recognition of foreign qualifications	○	○	○	◉	○
Language(s) spoken in destination country	○	○	○	○	◉
Conditions for permanent residence	○	○	○	○	◉
Openness of the socio-political environment to immigration	○	○	◉	○	○
Availability of integration and language assistance	○	○	○	◉	○
Easy mobility between EU Member States	○	○	◉	○	○
Ease of entering and leaving the EU at will as a permit holder	○	○	○	◉	○
Business friendly environment	○	○	○	○	◉
Innovation friendly environment	○	○	○	○	◉
Quality of life (please specify)	○	○	○	○	◉
Other (please specify)	○	○	○	◉	○

5.2 Quality of life: please specify

300 character(s) maximum

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In NL: high standards are upheld regarding the rule of law – also for
the (international) business community, excellent health care and
education systems, safe and secure environment, rich and diverse
cultural life, excellent housing conditions, rich nature, excellent
infrastructure.
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5.3 Other: please specify

300 character(s) maximum

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The EU is attractive for labour migrants but also for entrepreneurs –
especially startups. Many member states have vibrant startup communities
and take action to build up a good 'startup ecosystem'. NL as well. This
will increase Europe's attractiveness. Coordinated EU action might be
helpful.
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5.4 On which of the following issues could the EU do more to improve its attractiveness as a migration destination for highly skilled non-EU migrants?

at most 3 choice(s)

- [x] Ease of getting a permit
- [ ] Facilitate family reunification
- [ ] Portability of social benefits (eg. acquired pension rights, sickness insurance…)
- [x] Recognition of foreign qualifications
- [ ] Facilitate access to permanent residence
- [x] Easy mobility between Member States
- [ ] Ease of entering and leaving the EU at will as a permit holder

5.5 Do you think more should be done, at the EU level, to improve the attractiveness of the EU Member States for highly-skilled migrants?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

5.6 Please explain

600 character(s) maximum

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The Dutch government's national strategy is to attract and retain highly
skilled migrants. The announced actions on legal migration in the EU
agenda for migration fall within the scope of the Dutch national
strategy. The Dutch government welcomes the aim of the EU commission to
broaden the scope of the Blue Card to include entrepreneurs as well. The
Dutch government strongly believes that entrepreneurs, especially
innovative startups, are of great importance to our economies because
they can empower job creation and innovation.
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5.7 In the country/ies in which you are active, do you consider that the system for managing labour migration fully responds to current and long-term needs.

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No, there is more to be done.

5.8 Please explain

600 character(s) maximum

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NL supports an effective, simple and flexible scheme for admitting
highly skilled workers. The Dutch national scheme for the highly skilled
has proven to be very successful. Essential elements in the Dutch scheme
that differ from the Blue Card: a salary threshold for highly skilled
workers > 30 years and < 30 years (lower), no educational condition,
longer possible period of validity, based on a system of 'recognised
sponsors', which allows for fast-track decision making and less evidence
to submit. For an EU scheme to be successful, these factors should be
taken into account more.
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6
EU BLUE CARD

6.4 Have you ever heard of the EU Blue Card before this survey?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No

6.5 If yes, do you consider that:

- ◉ It could be made more attractive
- ○ It is sufficiently attractive

6.14 The Blue Card Directive sets a number of admission conditions which applicants must fulfil to be allowed into the EU: 1) a work contract or binding job offer of at least one year; 2) a salary of at least 1,5 times the average gross annual salary in the Member State concerned; 3) proof of relevant professional qualifications or fulfilling the national legal requirements

Do you consider that the admission conditions of the current EU Blue Card Directive are adequate?

- ○ Yes
- ◉ No

Info: 'higher professional qualifications' means evidence of recognised higher education qualifications or at least five years of relevant professional experience;

6.15 If no, please indicate the specific criteria which you consider should be made more flexible (multiple answers possible):

- [ ] The recognition of foreign qualifications
- [ ] Recognising professional experience instead of educational qualifications
- [ ] The salary threshold of 1,5 times the average gross annual salary in the Member State concerned
- [x] Other

6.16 Please Specify

300 character(s) maximum

See answer on question 5.8.

6.17 What aspects would be most important for the attractiveness of the EU Blue Card?

Please indicate the factors you consider important (max. three answers possible):

at most 3 choice(s)

- [x] Fast-track entry procedures
- [ ] A clear, streamlined and uniform scheme across all Member States
- [ ] Unrestricted access to the labour market
- [x] Extension of its scope to other categories, e.g. entrepreneurs
- [ ] Promotion and information provision on the EU Blue Card
- [ ] Favourable conditions for family reunification
- [ ] Availability of integration support (e.g. language courses, job orientation) for highly qualified workers and family members
- [ ] Allowable absences to return to the country of origin
- [ ] Rights and equal treatment
- [ ] Long-term perspectives (e.g. longer validity of the Blue Card or facilitated access to long-term residence status or naturalisation)
- [x] Easy intra-EU mobility to take up employment opportunities in other Member States
- [ ] Other (please specify)

6.19 In many Member States national schemes for attracting highly-skilled labour migrants exist in parallel to the EU Blue Card. In your opinion, in order to make the EU as a whole more attractive for highly qualified migrant workers, do you consider that:

- ( ) It is better to opt for one unified and visible EU-wide scheme, such as an improved EU Blue Card without parallel national programmes
- (•) It is better to keep parallel national programmes for highly qualified migrant workers in addition to the EU Blue Card
- ( ) No opinion

6.22 Why? Please indicate the factors you consider important (multiple answers possible). Separate national programmes…

- [ ] Allow Member States to differentiate themselves from other Member States and improve their relative attractiveness
- [x] Allow to better align national policy preferences with national needs
- [ ] Offer more options for potential migrants
- [x] Other

6.23 Please specify

300 character(s) maximum

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Even though NL believes improvements can be made (such as broadening the
scope to entrepreneurs/startups and better agreements on intra-EU
mobility), Member States should be able to run parallel national
programmes and set country-specific conditions.
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6.24 Do you consider that the EU Blue Card scheme could be more attractive if its scope were to be expanded to certain additional categories of highly-qualified workers?

- (●) Yes
- ( ) No

6.25 Please indicate the specific categories/cases (multiple answers possible):

- [x] Entrepreneurs or aspiring entrepreneurs in any area (upon fulfilment of specific conditions)
- [x] Entrepreneurs or aspiring entrepreneurs in high-tech sectors likely to create high-growth employment
- [x] Self-employed workers (upon fulfilment of specific conditions)
- [x] Facilitation for international students (graduates from third countries who obtained a higher education degree in the EU)
- [x] A job seeking permit for highly-skilled non EU nationals
- [ ] A job seeking permit for non EU nationals for sectors where labour shortages are identified
- [ ] Other (please specify)

6.27 Do you have further comments on how the EU can be made more attractive for highly qualified workers (in particular in relation to the Blue Card directive)?

300 character(s) maximum

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For The Netherlands, three elements are most important: 1) the
conditions in the EU Blue Card directive, 2) broadening the scope to
entrepreneurs and especially startups and 3) better agreements on
intra-EU mobility.
```

7
QUALIFICATIONS

7.1 Do you consider the current procedures for the recognition of non-EU qualifications adequate?

- ○ Yes
- ● No
- ○ I do not know

7.2 Please Specify

300 character(s) maximum

Recognition procedures in NL are mostly well-organized by the competent authorities. The transparency of the procedures (and information provision) may be improved. Knowledge of non-EU qualifications is not very well known among employers, they might make more use of the available recognition tools.

7.8 On average, how long does it take to get non-EU qualifications for a regulated profession recognised in your Member State? ('regulated profession': a professional activity to which access is limited to those with specific professional qualifications, e.g. professions with professional associations, such as accountants, lawyers, notaries, dentists)

- ○ Under 1 month
- ○ 1-3 months
- ○ 4-6 months
- ○ Over 6 months
- ● I don't know

7.9 On average, how long does it take to get non-EU qualifications for an unregulated profession recognised in your Member State?

- ● Under 1 month
- ○ 1-3 months
- ○ 4-6 months
- ○ Over 6 months
- ○ I don't know

7.18 In the field of recognition of qualifications obtained outside the EU, which of the following initiatives would you welcome the most?

- ○ An easier system of recognition of qualifications at EU level for non-EU qualifications
- ○ Increased cooperation between national accreditation systems
- ● Increased transparency on national procedures
- ○ A better use of the qualifications frameworks to support recognition (where these exist)
- ○ No further action
- ○ Other

7.19 Please explain what would be the advantages of such an initiative (in terms of reducing costs etc.) for you.

300 character(s) maximum

An increase in transparency may facilitate a more efficient information provision towards both employers and employees. This in turn will allow part of our resources to be redirected to other areas of recognition.

Contact

✉ Jan.SAVER@ec.europa.eu